

MAY 24, 1978

CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH (THE HUNGER PROJECT)  
(INSERTS AVAILABLE IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: MOTHER'S DAY, AN ANNUAL EVENT IN THE UNITED STATES THAT TRADITIONALLY CELEBRATES MOTHERHOOD, TOOK ON A NEW AND BROADER MEANING THIS YEAR. IN MANY CITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE DAY (MAY 14) WAS AN OCCASION TO CELEBRATE THE BOUNTIFULNESS OF MOTHER EARTH AND TO CONSIDER HOW THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLES EVERYWHERE. THE SLOGAN WAS "THE END OF STARVATION IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME." WITH THAT STORY. HERE IS

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NARR: ON MOTHER'S DAY, HERE IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, INSPITE OF LOWERING CLOUDS AND FREQUENT, HEAVY SHOWERS OF RAIN, MORE THAN SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE GATHERED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT...TO PICNIC, TO SAMPLE FREE FOOD DONATED BY THE SPONSORS OF THE EVENT, AND TO TALK, WITH ENTHUSIASM, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ENDING WORLD HUNGER WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DECADES. SOME SPOKE TO THE ASSEMBLED CROWD -- INCLUDING JOHN MBOGUA, AMBASSADOR FROM KENYA -- SOME, LIKE THE POPULAR SINGER, JOHN DENVER, PUT THE IDEA TO MUSIC:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- JOHN DENVER: ESTABLISH AND FADE UNDER:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- VICKI SANT

"JOHN DENVER HAS WRITTEN A SONG CALLED 'I WANT TO LIVE' AND HE HAS ALSO MADE A MOVIE BY THE SAME NAME AND THOSE TWO THINGS -- THE SONG AND THE MOVIE -- RAISE PEOPLE'S CONSCIOUSNESS (MAKE PEOPLE AWARE) ABOUT THE FACT THAT HUNGER IS NOT INEVITABLE -- THERE ARE SOLUTIONS."

NARR: THAT WAS VICKI SANT, A MEMBER OF THE HUNGER PROJECT, AN ORGANIZATION OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND FORTY OTHER COUNTRIES, COMMITTED TO ENDING WORLD HUNGER AND STARVATION IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS, AS THEY PUT IT, BY ENCOURAGING "POLITICAL WILL." LAST YEAR THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, A QUASI-FEDERAL AGENCY, ISSUED A REPORT POINTING OUT THAT ALL THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES EXIST TO END FOOD SHORTAGES. AND IT STATED: "IF THERE IS THE POLITICAL WILL IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD...IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THE WORST ASPECTS OF WIDESPREAD HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION WITHIN ONE GENERATION."

IMPRESSED BY THIS REPORT A GROUP OF ORDINARY CITIZENS DECIDED TO FORM WHAT IS NOW CALLED THE HUNGER PROJECT, TO CREATE THAT "POLITICAL WILL." THE PROJECT OFFERS NO SOLUTIONS TO WORLD HUNGER AS THESE ALREADY EXIST. ITS PURPOSE IS COMMUNICATION. THIS IS PARTLY CARRIED OUT THROUGH A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY A SMALL STAFF IN SAN FRANCISCO, THE ONLY PAID MEMBERS OF THE HUNGER PROJECT. THE MOTHER'S DAY PICNIC HELD HERE AND IN FORTY OTHER CITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES WAS ANOTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. THE MAIN WORK OF THE HUNGER PROJECT HOWEVER, IS DONE ON THE PERSONAL LEVEL. INDIVIDUALS ARE URGED TO WRITE LETTERS TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGING THEM TO SUPPORT HUNGER RELIEF PROGRAMS. MEMBERS OF THE HUNGER PROJECT TALK TO FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND CO-WORKERS TELLING THEM ABOUT THE IDEA AND ENLISTING THEIR SUPPORT. THOSE WHO

NARR: ENROL IN THE PROJECT ARE NOT COMMITTED TO MAKING ANY  
(CONT) FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION...IT'S THE MORAL SUPPORT THAT COUNTS.  
HOWEVER, SOME MEMBERS DO WORK AT RAISING FUNDS TO HELP  
PAY FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS PUT OUT BY  
THE PROJECT. DONATIONS COME FROM MANY SOURCES: SOME PEOPLE,  
FOR EXAMPLE, GO WITHOUT FOOD ONE DAY A MONTH AND CONTRIBUTE  
THE MONEY SAVED. AND VICKI SANT TELLS ABOUT A POET IN THE  
WASHINGTON AREA WHO DONATED THE PROCEEDS FROM HER LATEST  
VOLUME OF POETRY TO THE PROJECT. HER EDITOR AND TYPE-  
SETTER, THROUGH HER, BECAME INTERESTED AND DONATED THEIR  
SERVICE IN PRODUCING THE BOOK AS THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
HUNGER PROJECT.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SANT

"THEN WHAT SHE FINALLY DID WAS HAVE A READING OF HER POETRY,  
INVITED PEOPLE TO COME AND PAY ADMISSION. AND THEY WERE  
ABLE TO PURCHASE THE BOOK IF THEY WANTED AND TO ENROLL IN  
THE HUNGER PROJECT."

VOICE: SOME MEMBERS OF THE HUNGER PROJECT, THOSE WITH THE NECESSARY  
EXPERTISE, HAVE INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN THE PRACTICAL  
SOLUTIONS TO WORLD HUNGER AND WORK WITH GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS  
IN OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT MOSTLY THE MEMBERS DEVOTE THEIR  
TIME TO GENERATING "POLITICAL WILL" AND LETTING OTHERS  
KNOW THE MESSAGE OF THE HUNGER PROJECT: "THE END OF  
STARVATION IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME."

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